

Microsoft Press
**Computer
Dictionary**

Third Edition

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Microsoft Press

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Data Carrier Detected

Data Carrier Detected \dā'tə kār'ē-er də-tek'təd, dat'ə\ *n.* See DCD.

data chaining \dā'tə chā'nēng, dat'ə\ *n.* The process of storing segments of data in noncontiguous locations while retaining the ability to reconnect them in the proper sequence.

data channel \dā'tə chan'əl, dat'ə\ *n.* See channel.

data collection \dā'tə kə-lek'shən, dat'ə\ *n.* 1. The process of acquiring source documents or data. 2. The grouping of data by means of classification, sorting, ordering, and other organizing methods.

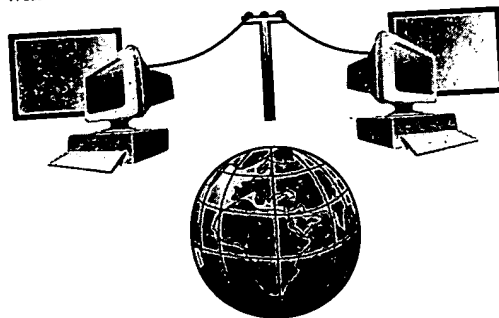
datacom \dā'tə-kom', dat'ə-kom'\ *n.* Short for data communications. See communications.

data communications \dā'tə kə-myōō-nā-kā'shənz, dat'ə\ *n.* See communications.

data compaction \dā'tə kəm-pak'shən, dat'ə\ *n.* See data compression.

data compression \dā'tə kəm-presh'ən, dat'ə\ *n.* A means of reducing the amount of space or bandwidth needed to store or transmit a block of data, used in data communications, facsimile transmission, and CD-ROM publishing. Also called data compaction.

data conferencing \dā'tə kon'frən-sēng, dat'ə\ *n.* Simultaneous data communication among geographically separated participants in a meeting. Data conferencing involves whiteboards and other software that enable a single set of files at one location to be accessed and modified by all participants. See the illustration. See also desktop conferencing, whiteboard. Compare video conferencing.



Data conferencing.

data control \dā'tə kən-trōl', dat'ə\ *n.* The aspect of data management concerned with tracking how

data entry

and by whom data is used, accessed, altered, owned, and reported on.

data corruption \dā'tə kər-up'shən, dat'ə\ *n.* See corruption.

data declaration \dā'tə de-klər-ā'shən, dat'ə\ *n.* A statement in a program that specifies the characteristics of a variable. The requirements for data declarations vary among different programming languages but can include such values as variable name, data type, initial value, and size specification. See also array, data type, record¹, variable.

data definition language \dā'tə def-ə-nish-lang-wəj, dat'ə\ *n.* A language that defines attributes and properties of a database, especially record layouts, field definitions, key fields, file locations, and storage strategy. Acronym: DDL (D'D).

data description language \dā'tə dəs-krip'sh-lang-wəj, dat'ə\ *n.* A language designed specifically for declaring data structures and files. See data definition language.

data dictionary \dā'tə dik'shə-nâr-ē, dat'ə\ *n.* A database containing data about all the databases in a database system. Data dictionaries store all various schema and file specifications and locations. They also contain information about which programs use which data and which are interested in which reports.

data directory \dā'tə dər-ek'tər-ē, dat'ə\ *n.* A catalog, data dictionary.

data-driven processing \dā'tə driv-ən'ēng, dat'ə-driv-ən'\ *n.* A form of processing in which the processor or program must wait for data to arrive before it can advance to the next step in the sequence.

data element \dā'tə el'ə-ment, dat'ə\ *n.* A unit of data. Also called data item. See field.

data encryption \dā'tə en-krip'shən, dat'ə\ *n.* See encryption.

data encryption key \dā'tə en-krip'shēng, dat'ə\ *n.* A sequence of data that is used to encrypt and decrypt other data. Acronym: DEK (D'E-K). See also decryption, encryption (definition 3).

data encryption standard \dā'tə en-krip'stān'dərd, dat'ə\ *n.* See DES.

data entry \dā'tə en'trē, dat'ə\ *n.* The process of writing new data to computer memory.

te display

GPU where peripherals, such as printers, and external modems, are plugged in. See definition. See also COM (definition 1), input/output, serial port.



pressed with this utility have the extension .Z added to their names.

compress² \kəm-pres' \ *vb.* To reduce the size of a set of data, such as a file or a communications message, so that it can be stored in less space or transmitted with less bandwidth. Data can be compressed by removing repeated patterns of bits and replacing them with some form of summary that takes up less space; restoring the repeated patterns decompresses the data. Lossless compression methods must be used for text, code, and numeric data files; lossy compression may be used for video and sound files. See also lossless compression, lossy compression.

compressed digital video \kəm-presd' dij' i-təl vid' ē-ō \ *n.* See CDV (definition 1).

compressed disk \kəm-presd' disk' \ *n.* A hard disk or floppy disk whose apparent capacity to hold data has been increased through the use of a compression utility, such as Stacker or Double Space. See also data compression.

compressed drive \kəm-presd' drīv' \ *n.* A hard disk whose apparent capacity has been increased through the use of a compression utility, such as Stacker or Double Space. See also compressed disk, data compression.

compressed file \kəm-presd' fīl' \ *n.* A file whose contents have been compressed by a special utility program so that it occupies less space on a disk or other storage device than in its uncompressed (normal) state. See also installation program, LHARC, PKUNZIP, PKZIP, utility program.

Compressed SLIP \kəm-presd' slīp', S-L-I-P' \ *n.* Short for **Compressed Serial Line Internet Protocol**. A version of SLIP using compressed Internet address information, thereby making the protocol faster than SLIP. *Acronym:* CSLIP (C'slip, C'S-L-I-P'). See also SLIP.

compression \kəm-presh'ən' \ *n.* See data compression.

compressor \kəm-pres'ər' \ *n.* A device that limits some aspect of a transmitted signal, such as volume, in order to increase efficiency.

CompuServe \kom'pyō-sərv' \ *n.* An online information service that provides information and communications capabilities, including Internet access. It is primarily known for its technical

composite display \kəm-poz'it di-splā' \ *n.* A characteristic of television monitors and computer monitors, that is capable of projecting an image from a composite signal (also called an NTSC signal). A composite display signal on one wire not only the coded information required to form an image on the screen but also the pulses needed to synchronize horizontal and vertical scanning as the electron beam sweeps back and forth across the screen. Composite displays can be either monochrome or color. A composite color signal combines the three primary video colors (red, green, and blue) in a color burst component that determines the shade of color displayed on the screen. Composite color monitors are less readable than either monochrome monitors or the RGB color monitors that use separate signals (and wires) for the red, green, and blue components of the image. See also color burst, color monitor, monochrome display, NTSC, RGB monitor.

composite key \kəm-poz'it kē' \ *n.* A key whose definition consists of two or more fields in a file, columns in a table, or attributes in a relation.

composite video display \kəm-poz'it vid' ē-ō di-splā' \ *n.* A display that receives all encoded video information (including color, horizontal synchronization, and vertical synchronization) in one signal. A composite video signal under NTSC (National Television System Committee) standards is generally required for television sets and videotape recorders. See also NTSC. Compare RGB monitor.

compound statement \kom'pound stāt'mənt' \ *n.* A single instruction composed of two or more individual instructions.

compress¹ \kəm-pres' \ *n.* A proprietary UNIX utility for reducing the size of data files. Files com-

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